

Governor Bill Richardson Statement Regarding Texas State Senators' Arrival in New Mexico

For Immediate Release

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SANTA FE- Governor Bill Richardson issued the following statement regarding the 11 Texas State Senators who arrived in New Mexico late this afternoon:

I am proud to welcome the Democratic lawmakers from the Texas Legislature who are visiting the State of New Mexico. We send Texas our water, they send us 11 Democratic legislators- not quite an even trade, but it's a start. Seriously, we're glad to have them here.

Once again there are those who are trying to apply undo political pressure to force these legislators to succumb to political manipulation to reopen the redistricting plan in Texas, to benefit Republicans. This scheme goes far beyond simple numbers. If Texas Republicans succeed, they will trample on the rights of minority citizens who will effectively be denied representation- forced into non-competitive, clearly Republican-leaning Congressional districts where their votes will no longer matter.

Texas Governor Rick Perry should take a lesson from New Mexico- where a Democratic Governor and a Democratic majority work *with* a Republican minority, and together we passed tax reform, education reform, and an aggressive economic growth package.

I too am planning a special legislative session here in New Mexico. However, we will be conducting the people's business. We will rise above blatant political maneuvering, and not indulge in such an unwise and retaliatory redistricting effort.

This is a wonderful time of the year to visit the Land of Enchantment. New Mexico has a long history of helping people on the run- and should these legislators decide to stay awhile, I will be proud to have them. I'd be happy to show them the sites, and treat them to some terrific New Mexican food.